

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 279186

65

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN IRAN

REF: TEHRAN 11345

1. WE WOULD WELCOME ANY INSIGHT AS TO WHY NASSERI NOW APPEARS DISPLEASED WITH ARRANGEMENTS MUTUALLY AGREED UPON TO RESETTLE INDOCHINESE REFUGEES.

2. THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND MAY BE HELPFUL:

3. WHEN NASSERI LEFT WASHINGTON HE AND IRANIAN EMBASSY HERE WERE EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE POSITIVE RESULTS OF THE MISSION. CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS AT THE EMBASSY HERE FOLLOWED NASSERI'S DEPARTURE. ALL RECOGNIZED THAT THE DELEGATION CAME TOO LATE TO RECRUIT
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PAGE 02 STATE 279186

PHYSICIANS. WITH THE HELP OF IATF NASSERI AND DELEGATION

WERE ABLE TO TURN THE MISSION INTO A SUCCESS BY RETURNING WITH QUALIFIED TRUCK DRIVERS WHICH IRAN CLEARLY NEEDS.

4. ALL ARRANGEMENTS AND PROCEDURES WERE MADE TO MEET REQUIREMENTS SET BY NASSERI INCLUDING ONLY ONE DAY'S NOTIFICATION FOR IATF TO ISSUE INTERNATIONAL DRIVERS LICENCES. IATF MET THE NOVEMBER 20 ARRIVAL DATE IN TEHRAN FOR THE

FIRST GROUP AS REQUESTED BY NASSERI AND 10 DAYS PRIOR NOTIFICATION WAS GIVEN. ON TWO OCCASIONS NOVEMBER 13 AND 14 IATF SPOKE WITH NASSERI IN TEHRAN TO CONFIRM ALL ARRANGEMENTS BY PHONE BEFORE OFFICES WERE CLOSED DUE TO A SPECIAL IRANIAN HOLIDAY. NASSERI APPROVED BY PHONE THE NUMBER OF DRIVERS INCLUDING THE FAMILY WITH 5 CHILDREN. ALL OTHER DRIVERS WERE SINGLE MEN EXCEPT THE FAMILY OF 3 WHICH NASSERI PERSONALLY CHOSE TO LIVE WITH HIM. NASSERI'S GESTURE OF SPONSORSHIP IS SIGNIFICANT AND CONSIDERED AN IMPORTANT COMMITMENT ON HIS PART TO THE MISSION.

5. THE POSITIVE DIPLOMATIC ASPECTS OF THE MISSION WERE STRESSED BY THE IRANIANS WHO WELCOMED OPENING A DIALOGUE ON REFUGEE AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS AS WELL AS SETTING UP PROCEDURES FOR SENDING TO IRAN ADDITIONAL INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WITH SKILLS TO MEET THEIR MAN-POWER NEEDS.

6. INTEREST WAS ALSO GENERATED IN RECRUITING INDOCHINESE REFUGEES STILL IN SOUTH EAST ASIA. THUS ONGOING CONSIDERATIONS OF REFUGEE ISSUES ARE INVOLVED. SUCCESSFUL RESETTLEMENT OF THE FIRST GROUP COULD LEAD TO FURTHER RELOCATION IN IRAN FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES OUTSIDE THE US SYSTEM.

7. RE: THE COMMITTEE'S ARRIVAL ONE DAY EARLY AT THE AIRPORT. THE IATF PURPOSELY CLARIFIED BY PHONE TO TEHRAN THAT QUOTE THE GROUP WILL ARRIVE MIDNIGHT NOVEMBER 19 UNQUOTE TO AVOID ANY AMBIGUITY. ALL ARRIVED ON THE SCHEDULED FLIGHT AND IATF GREATLY APPRECIATES THE EFFORTS MADE BY ALL CONCERNED TO MEET THE REFUGEES AT SUCH AN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 279186

INCONVENIENT HOUR.

8. THERE IS STILL INTEREST AMONG INDOCHINESE REFUGEES BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE OF RESETTLEMENT CENTERS FOR RELOCATING IN IRAN. WE WILL DEFER FURTHER ACTION UNTIL PROCEDURES WITH NASSERI AND GOI ARE CLARIFIED. IATF WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY TEHRAN DISCUSSING SITUATION WITH NASSERI SO THAT WE MAY KNOW HOW TO PROCEED; KISSINGER

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